

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06208 230913Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7158
INFO USIA WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 06208

E.O.22652 N/A
TAGE: EAIR,FR,GW
SUBJECT: AIRBUS PROBLEM AT LAGUARDIA AIRPORT

REF: STATE 042904

1. FRANCE SOIR FEB 22 CARRIED ARTICLE BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LOUIS FOY FROM NEW YORK ON AIRBUS TROUBLES AT LA GUARDIA. ACCORDING TO FOY, PORT AUTHORITY NOW ATTACKING AIRBUS AS MEANS OF REVENGE AFTER HAVING LOST BATTLE AGAINST CONCORDE. DETAILS OF WEIGHT/LANDING GEAR PROBLEM PROVIDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT PORT AUTHORITY COULD REINFORCE SECTIONS OF RUNWAY AS WAS DONE WHEN LOCKHEED L0.LL AND DC L0 BEGAN SERVICE. BUT, WRITER CONCLUDES, WITHOUT GOING INTO ECONOMICS OF RUNWAY ALTERATIONS, PORT AUTHORITY SEEMS TO BE SHOWING SIMILAR OBSTINACY TO THAT WHICH PREVENTED CONCORD FROM LANDING AT JFK FOR L8 MONTHS. IF PORT AUTHORITY WINS BATTLE OF LA GUARDIA, IT WILL HAVE ITS REVENGE FOR CONCORDE AND PROBABLY LOSE THE AMERICAN MARKET FOR AIRBUS.

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2. LE MATIN FEB. 22 CARRIED MORE BALANCED AIRBUS STORY, CONCLUDING THAT THERE MAY BE REAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THE LANDING GEAR ON LAGUARDIA'S RUNWAY, BUT ONE CANNOT HELP OBSERVING THAT EUROPEAN AIRPLANES DEFINITELY HAVE BAD LUCK WHEN IT COMES TO LANDING ON AMERICAN SOIL, NOTABLY WHEN THE AMERICAN AVIATION MONOPOLY APPEARS THREATENED.

3.COMMENT:AS ANTICIPATED IN THE REFTTEL,THE HERALD TRIBUNE
DID PICK UP THE NTT STORT.WE HAVE NOT,HOWEVER,HAD STATIC
FROM OFFICIAL CIRCLE THUS FAR AS RESULT OF THESE
STORIES.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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